

## Coins

# Bill gets stamped 'Hawaii' and stumps bank employe

By Roger Boye

HERE ARE more answers to questions from Tribune readers:

**Q**—While working in a bank, I found a \$20 bill with the word "Hawaii" stamped on both sides. What is its significance?—M.S., Chicago Heights

**A**—During World War II, currency made for Pacific islands owned by the United States was overprinted with the word "Hawaii" as a precaution. If the Japanese had invaded Hawaii, those overprinted bills would have been made worthless by the U.S. government for obvious security reasons.

**Q**—Do the Bicentennial quarters found in circulation have any extra value to collectors?—B.M. of Chicago, A.R. of Oak Lawn, and others

**A**—No. The government made nearly 1.7 billion Bicentennial quarters, enough to satisfy collector demands for decades. The coins feature a dual date, 1776-1976, and a Colonial drummer boy.

**Q**—My wife has a 1978-D penny that looks like a nickel in color, rather than a Lincoln cent. Is it unusual?—C.F., Hinsdale

**A**—Possibly. Workers at the United States Mint occasionally make coins out of the wrong metal by mistake. For example, perhaps a metal disk that was

supposed to be engraved into a dime was used instead to produce your cent. Such error coins are worth at least \$50 to collectors.

On the other hand, some businessmen plate common-date coins with nickel, silver, or other metal as a sales gimmick. They usually have no collector value. Take your cent to a coin dealer or another expert for evaluation.

**Q**—I've been told that it is illegal to photograph money. Do you know the rules?—A.S., Chicago

**A**—Coins may be photographed without restriction. To guard against counterfeiting, pictures of paper money must be in black and white, and be either less than three-fourths or more than 1½ times the size of the actual bills.

**Q**—Two days ago, I got in change a 1964 nickel with a "grooved edge" (like on a dime or quarter) rather than a smooth edge as is normal for nickels. What went wrong with my coin?—K.H., Chicago

**A**—Someone working in a machine shop doctored your nickel. It has no collector value.

*Have questions about coins or currency? Send them to Roger Boye, Arts & Fun, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Av., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a personal reply.*